GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2354
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2007
POLICY FOR REGULATED FRAMEWORK
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to ensure that the regulatory framework in the country is transparent, autonomous and professionally run;

(b) the status of the work done by the Planning Commission to prepare a policy paper on regulatory framework for the infrastructure sector;

(c) whether the Government is making rules, which ensures functional autonomy for the regulatory bodies; and

(d) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN)

(a) & (b): The National Common Minimum Programme states, inter alia, that "all regulatory institutions will be strengthened to ensure that competition is free & fair. These institutions will be run professionally." The Planning Commission was asked by the PMO to prepare a paper on the regulatory framework for infrastructure sector.

A consultation paper on 'Approach to Regulation of Infrastructure - Issues and Options' has since been prepared. A copy of the paper has been put on the websites of the Planning Commission: www.planningcommission.gov.in and the Committee on Infrastructure: www.infrastructure.gov.in for comments of the stakeholders, experts, etc. Planning Commission has also organized meetings with various stakeholders to elicit their comments and views.This paper analyses the rationale for regulation, surveys the existing regulatory institutions and identifies the principles and policy options for an overarching regulatory framework − including independence and autonomy of the regulator; functions of the regulator and his interface with the subject Ministry; accountability of the regulator; transparency of the regulatory process; competition issues and interface with the Competition Commission; dispute resolution etc.

(c) & (d): Every regulatory body is governed by an Act and functional autonomy is generally provided to them.